

BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH

September 3, 2023 – 10 am

14th Sunday after Pentecost

* *The live service will be broadcasted and recorded on YouTube, check your email for the link.*

Gathering Music: Overture - Music for the Royal Fireworks - Handel

* **Hymn:** MV12 - Come Touch Our Hearts

1. Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,
from failing embers build a blazing fire;
love strong enough to overturn injustice,
to seek a world more gracious, come touch and bless our hearts.
2. Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,
your quiet presence all our fears dispel;
create a space for spirit to grow in us,
let life and beauty fill us, come touch and bless our souls.
3. Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason,
set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;
help us to open doors of understanding,
to welcome truth and wisdom, come touch and bless our minds.
4. Come touch us in the moments we are fragile,
and in our weakness your great strength reveal;
that we may rise to follow and to serve,
steady now our nerve, come touch and bless our wills.
5. Come touch us now, this people who are gathered,
to break the bread and share the cup of peace;
that we may love you with our heart, our soul,
our mind, our strength, our all, come touch us with your grace.

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Lighting of Christ Candle:

Acolytes: Ian & Ruth Howes

We light this candle to remind us that God welcomes us to this holy ground.

This light is a symbol of our commitment to embrace the sacredness of life and to recognize that each one of us is filled with a burning passion to love and serve others.

Sung Response: Where Two or Three are Gathered – MV 14

Where two or three are gathered in my name I am there, I am there. (*Repeat...*)

Welcome & Centering for Worship:

Rev. Kim Vidal

Good morning! I welcome and greet you in the name of Jesus Christ on this 14th Sunday after Pentecost.

We are glad you have come today. Join us for coffee and fellowship after the service in the main hall.

Highlight some announcements.

Friends, let us remind ourselves that God sometimes calls us in the most unexpected places and circumstances. All we do is to pay attention with reverence.

With grateful hearts, let us gather in worship.

Call to Gather: (Responsively) Rev. Lorrie Lowes (Unknown, Gathering, Pentecost 1, 2015, Year B)

Come, take off your shoes for you are standing on holy ground.

The place where we sing songs of praise.

This is the place where we repeat the stories of faith.

that inspire us to respond to God's love.

We are called to be here,

in whispering winds and in burning flames.

and with God's presence,

disarms us of the barriers we have placed around us.

Come let us gather.

Prayer of Approach: (Unison) (Robin Wardlaw, Gathering, Pentecost 1, 2015, Year B)

We have heard something that makes us curious, inspires us, even excites us.

**Away from the centres of power, in our neighbourhoods,
something world-changing into being.**

We come with curiosity, our inspiration, our excitement;

we come with our gifts, our wisdom, our hunger

to experience God's power and life

and to be changed. Amen.

Special Music: Bourrée – Music for the Royal Fireworks – Handel

Time for the Young at Heart: Rev. Lorrie

The Prayer of Jesus / The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kin-dom come, thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

**Give us this day our daily bread, And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kin-dom, the power and the glory,

Forever and ever, Amen.

***Song: Many Are the Lightbeams - Voices United #588**

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|---|--|
| 1. Many are the lightbeams from the one light.
Our one light is Jesus.
Many are the lightbeams from the one light;
We are one in Christ. | Many are the gifts given, love is all one;
We are one in Christ. |
| 2. Many are the branches of the one tree.
Our one tree is Jesus.
Many are the branches of the one tree;
We are one in Christ. | 4. Many ways to serve God, the Spirit is one,
Servant spirit of Jesus.
Many ways to serve God, the Spirit is one;
We are one in Christ. |
| 3. Many are the gifts given, love is all one.
Love's the gift of Jesus. | 5. Many are the members, the body is one,
Members all of Jesus.
Many are the members, the body is one;
We are one in Christ. |

Words: Cyprian of Carthage, 252, Swedish para., Anders Frostenson, 1972. English trans. © David Lewis, 1983; Music © Olle Widestrand, 1974, arr. by Leonard Lythgoe, 1995.

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Prayer for Illumination: (Unison)

Reader: Ellen Boynton

Through these words of hope, may our listening take wing and soar with a burning passion to learn and to put our faith into action. Amen.

The Scripture Reading: Exodus 3: 1-6 NRSV (Updated Edition) **Moses at the Burning Bush**

3 Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." ⁴ When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church. **Thanks Be to God. Amen.**

Ministry of Music: Siciliana – *Music for the Royal Fireworks* – Handel

Sermon: "Burning but Not Consumed!"

Rev. Kim

Prayers of the People:

Rev. Kim

Musical Offering: La Réjouissance (Allegro) – *Music for the Royal Fireworks* – Handel

Invitation to Offer:

Rev. Lorrie

I now invite you to offer your time, talents and treasures as a sign of our gratefulness to God's blessings. you will find the offering plates on the narthex table. There are many additional ways you can financially support the work of the church – through PAR, by dropping into the office or by e-transfer. Thank you for your continued love and support of Bells Corners United Church.

***Offertory Hymn:** We Give Our Thanks

MV 187 (in English and French)

We give our thanks to God (4X)

Nous rendons grâce à Dieu (4X)

***Offertory Prayer: (Unison)**

Use these gifts, O God, as we offer them with humility and willingness.

Bless what we bring and use them to build God's reign on earth. Amen.

***Hymn:** MV 42 - Praise God for This Holy Ground

1.Praise God for this holy ground,
place and people, sight and sound.

3.Praise God who through Christ makes known
all are loved and called God's own.

Refrain: Hallelujah! (3X)
God's goodness is eternal.

4.Praise God's Spirit who befriends,
raises, humbles, breaks and mends.

2.Praise God in whose word we find
food for body, soul and mind.

5.Though praise ends, praise is begun
where God's will is gladly done.

***Sending Forth:** (Responsively) Rev. Kim

Like Moses, we do not go alone from this holy ground
but with God's strength, who calls and sends us.
So, let us go from here with confidence and with hope,
knowing that the great I AM goes with us,
now and always. **Amen.**

Sung Blessing: Like A Rock - More Voices #92

Like a rock, like a rock, God is under our feet.
Like the starry night sky, God is over our head.
Like the sun on the horizon, God is ever before.
Like the river runs to ocean, our home is in God evermore.

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